

Bravehearts

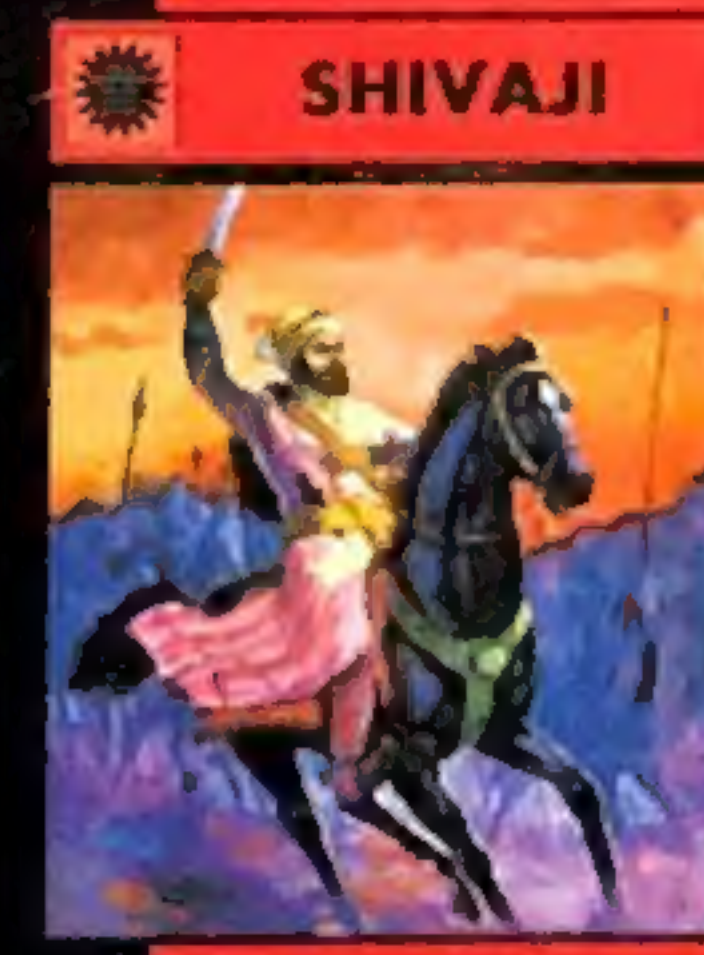
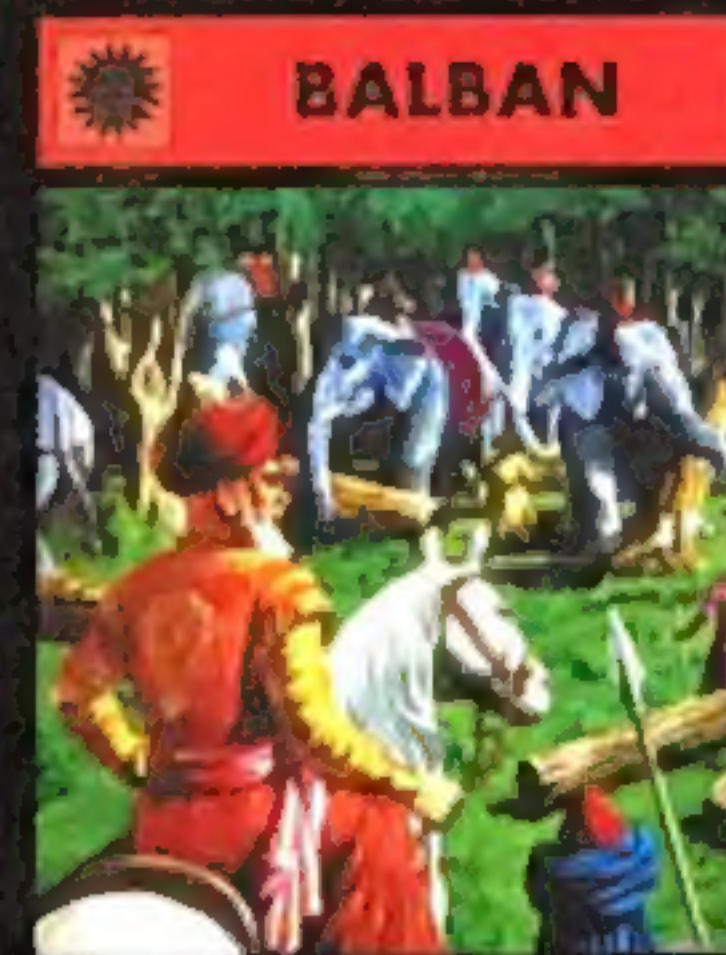
HAKKA AND BUKKA

In 1310, the armies of Delhi were attacking the Deccan plateau, ransacking and plundering the prosperous temple towns of the South.

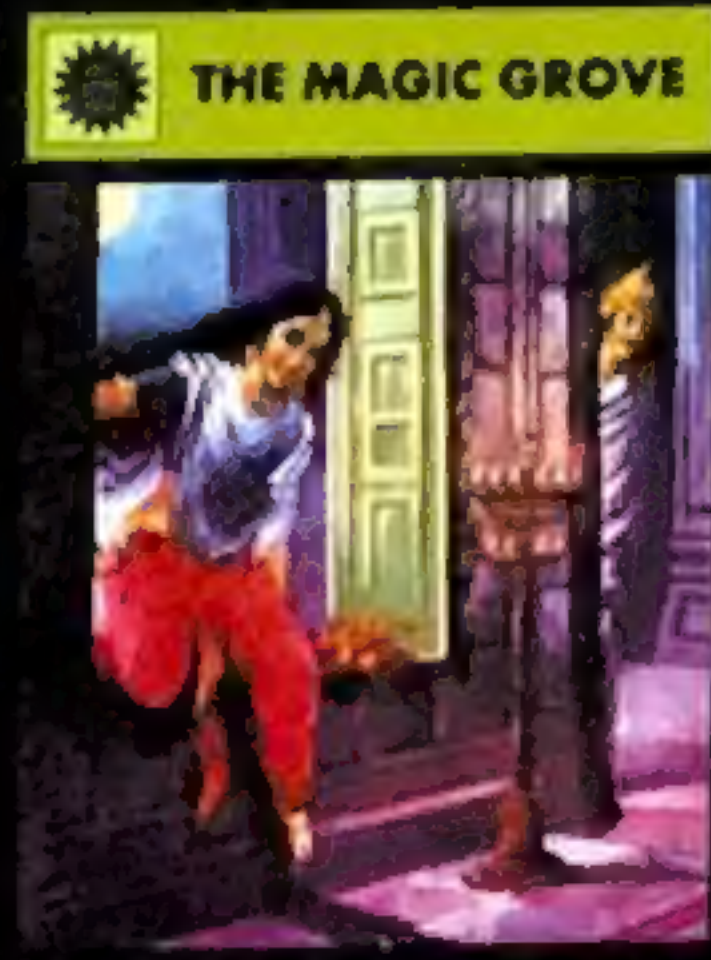
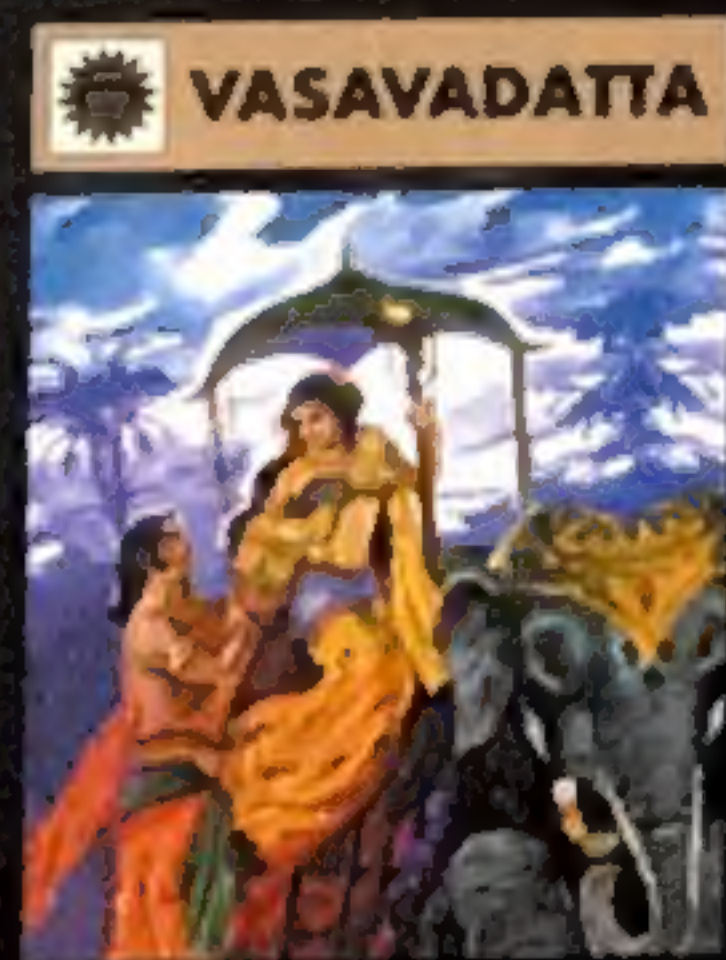
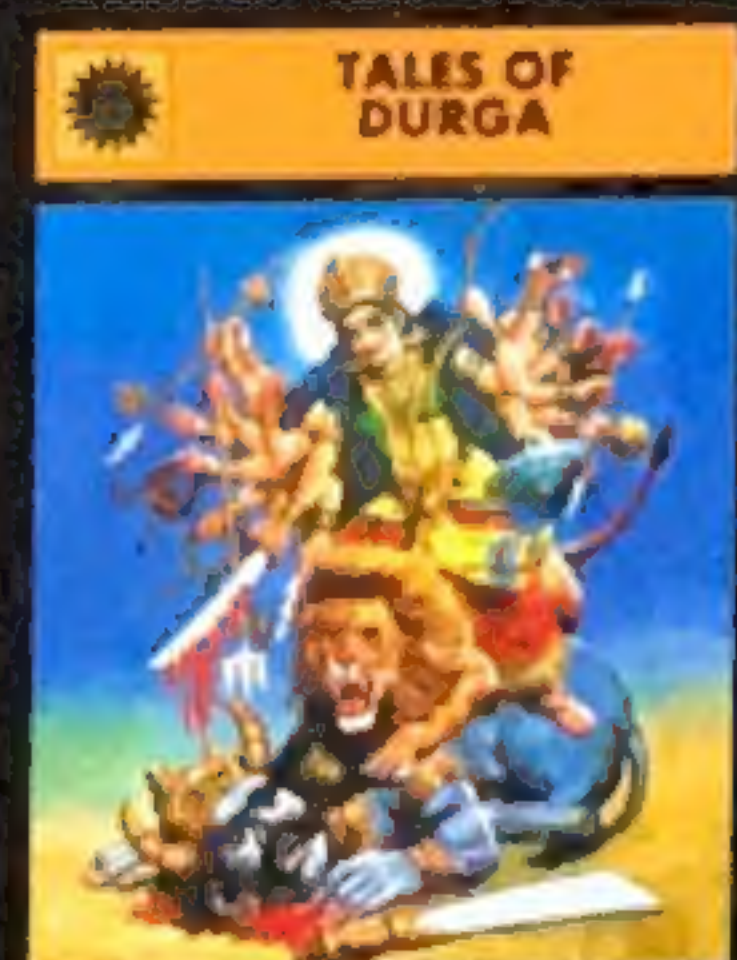
Two brothers, Hakka and Bukka, fought valiantly against the invaders.

Despite being defeated repeatedly they continued to fight, building a skilled armed force of their own. In this, they were helped by the powerful sage, Vidyaranya. With the support of the local people, Hakka and Bukka set up the city of Vijayanagar and Hakka became its first king, Harihara Raya. Their descendants ruled over a vast and powerful kingdom, extending from the west coast to the east, an empire that held sway for almost 300 years.

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HAKKA AND BUKKA



IT WAS THE YEAR 1310. MALIK KAFUR, LEADING THE DELHI SULTAN'S * ARMY, BESIEGED WARANGAL FORT.

INSIDE THE FORT —

OUR ARMY'S MORALE IS STILL HIGH, ISN'T IT ?

YES, YOUR MAJESTY. BUT OUR SUPPLIES ARE LOW. AND MALIK KAFUR IS PRESSING HARD.

KING PRATAPA RUDRA OF WARANGAL WAS NOT ONE TO GIVE UP EASILY.

ATTACK IS THE BEST FORM OF DEFENCE. ESPECIALLY WHEN WE HAVE LITTLE CHOICE.

AT MALIK KAFUR'S CAMP—

I AM SICK OF THIS LONG-DRAWN-OUT SIEGE. MOUNT AN ALL-OUT ATTACK!



THE TWO ARMIES CLASHED HEAD ON. THE BATTLE WAS AN ILL-FATED ONE FOR WARANGAL.



AS AN ACT OF SURRENDER, PRATAPA RUDRA WAS FORCED INTO SENDING A GOLD IMAGE OF HIMSELF WITH A GOLD CHAIN AROUND THE NECK TO MALIK KAFUR.

I MUST HASTEN TO DELHI TO INFORM THE SULTAN THAT I HAVE OPENED THE ROAD FOR THE CONQUEST OF THE SOUTH.

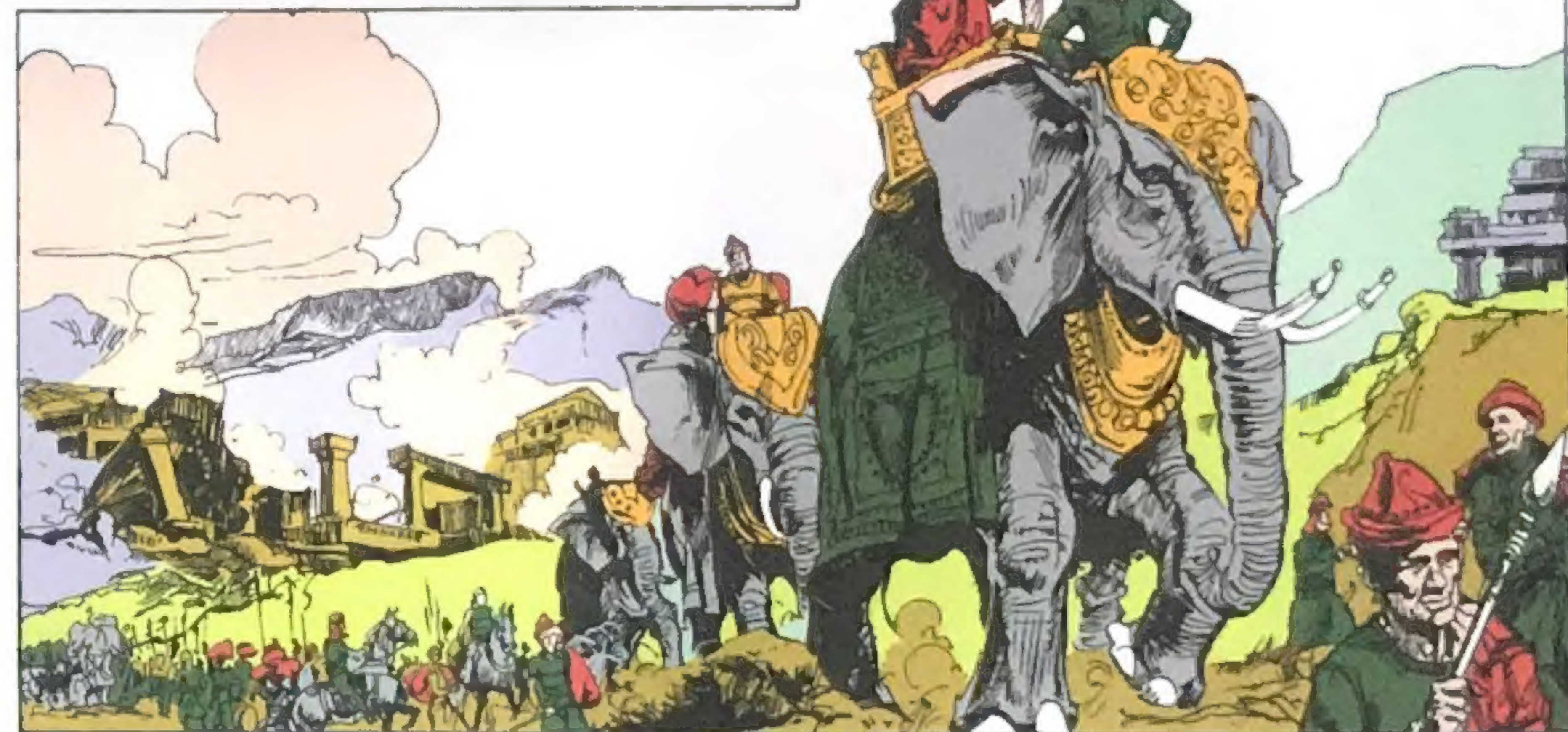


TWO YEARS LATER WHEN SULTAN KHILJI DIED —

NOW IS THE TIME FOR US TO THROW OFF THE ALIEN YOKE. STOP OUR TRIBUTE TO DELHI.



IN THE CONSEQUENT BATTLE WITH THE NEW SULTAN, GHIYAS-UD-DIN TUGHLUQ, THE UNLUCKY KING WAS AGAIN DEFEATED. AS THE VICTORS RODE AWAY WITH THEIR RICH BOOTY...



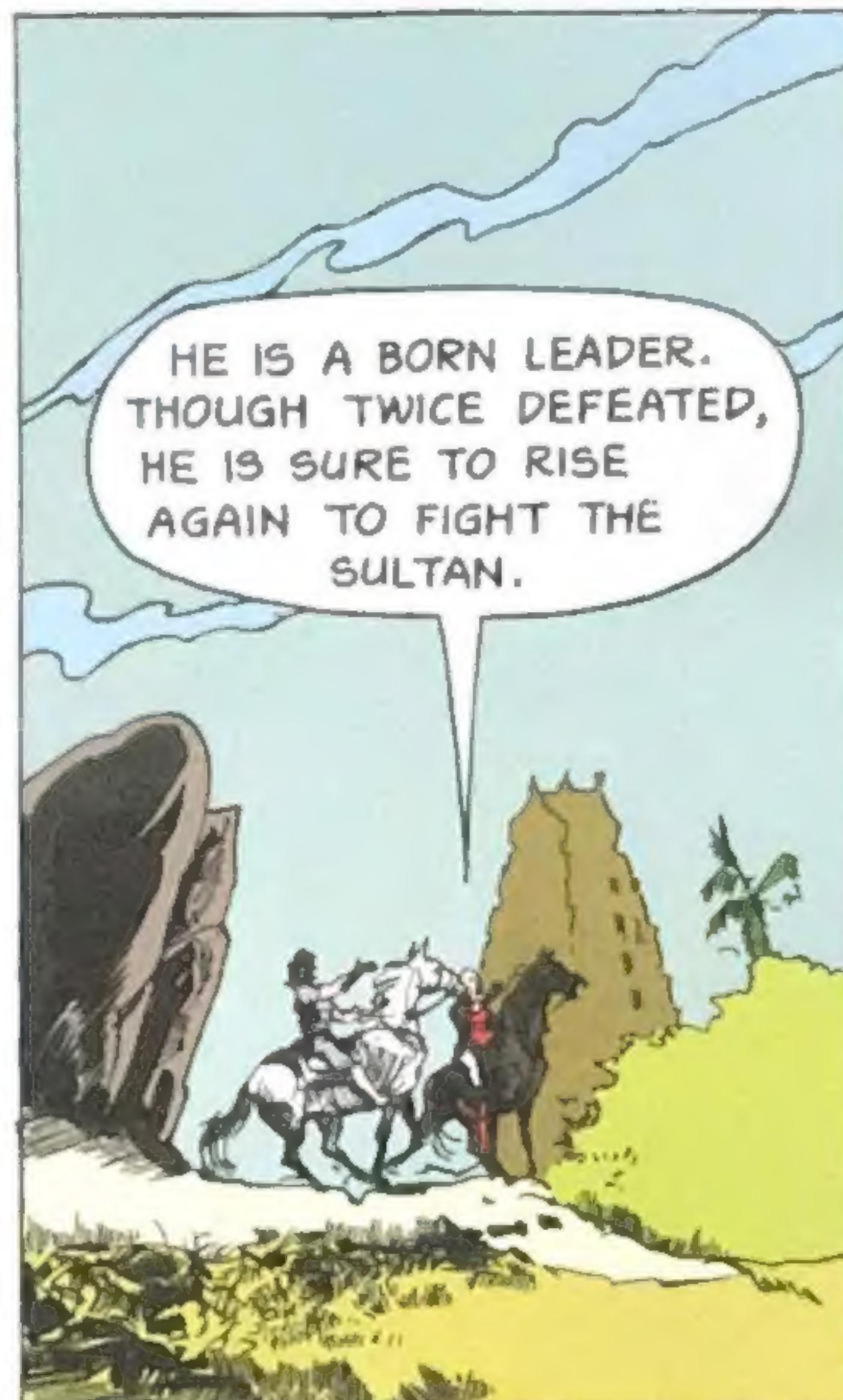
...THE COMMON PEOPLE GROANED IN FRUSTRATION.

THE GREEDY MEN FROM DELHI WILL RETURN AGAIN TO RANSACK OUR CITIES. WE MUST RESIST.

OUR KING IS BRAVE BUT HE IS OLD. THE YOUNG MEN OF THIS LAND MUST COME TO HIS AID.



MEANWHILE HAKKA AND BUKKA, SONS OF THE CHIEFTAIN, SANGAMA, WERE ALREADY ON THEIR WAY TO THE PALACE AT WARANGAL.



AT WARANGAL —

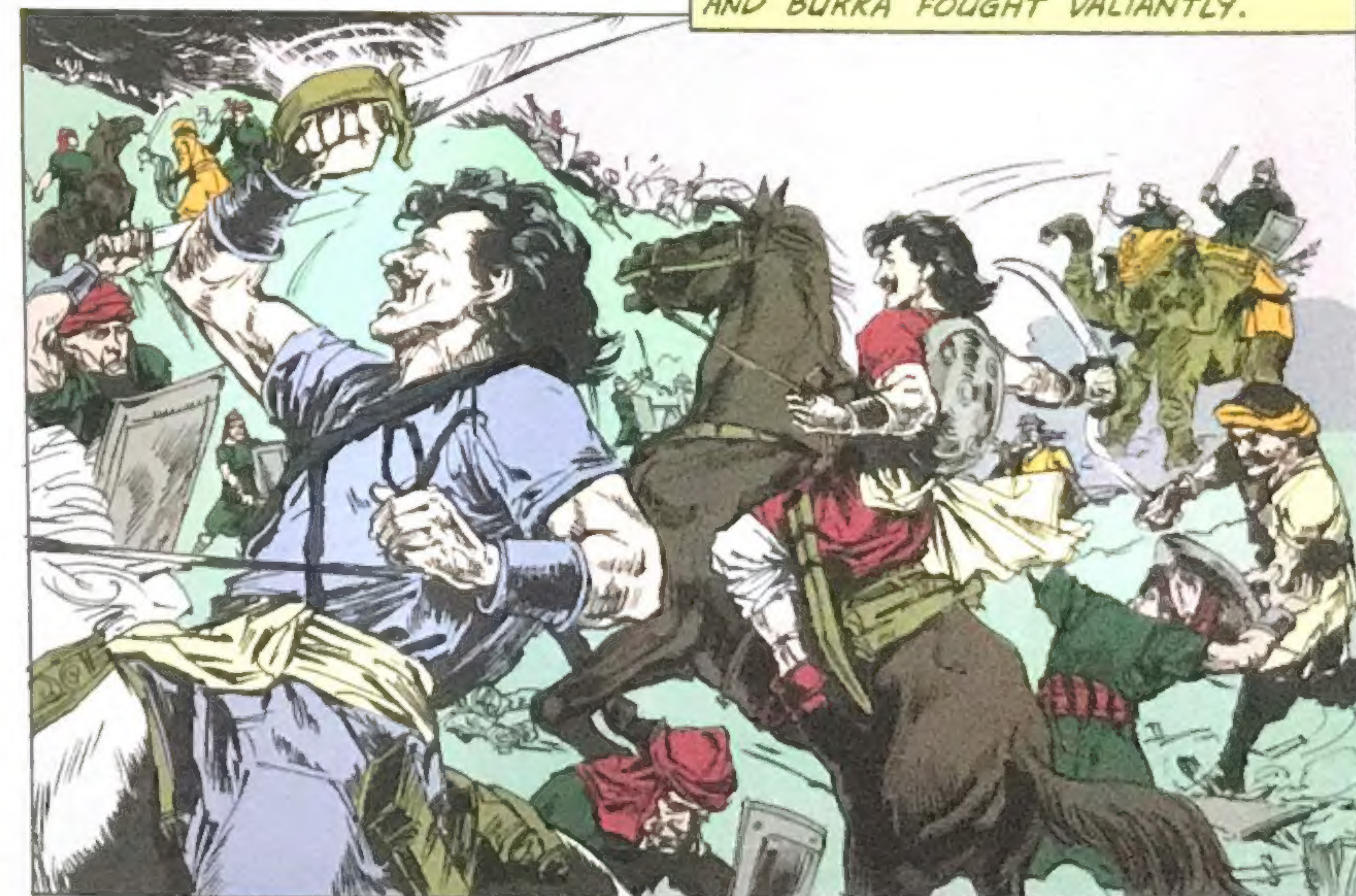


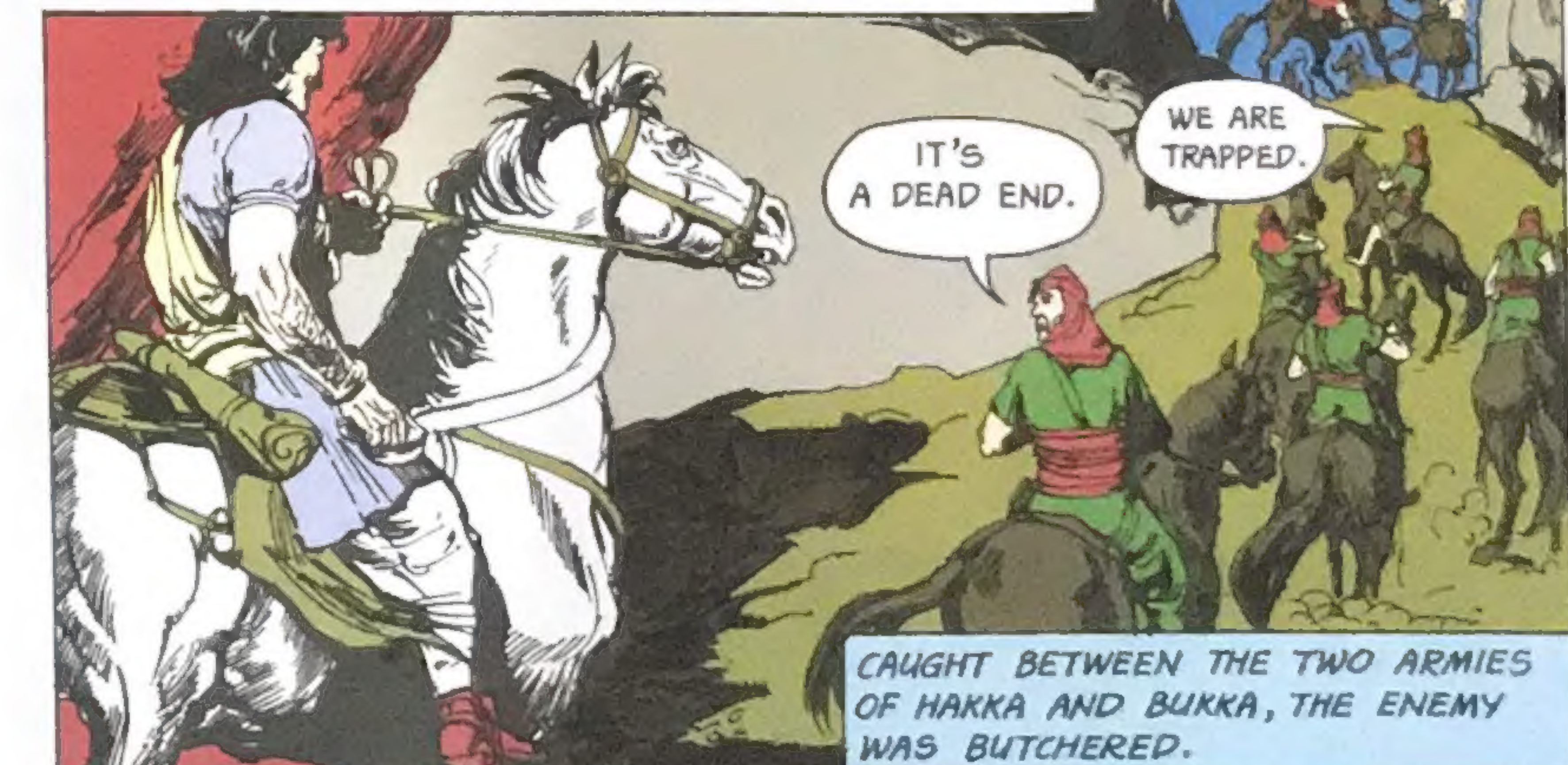
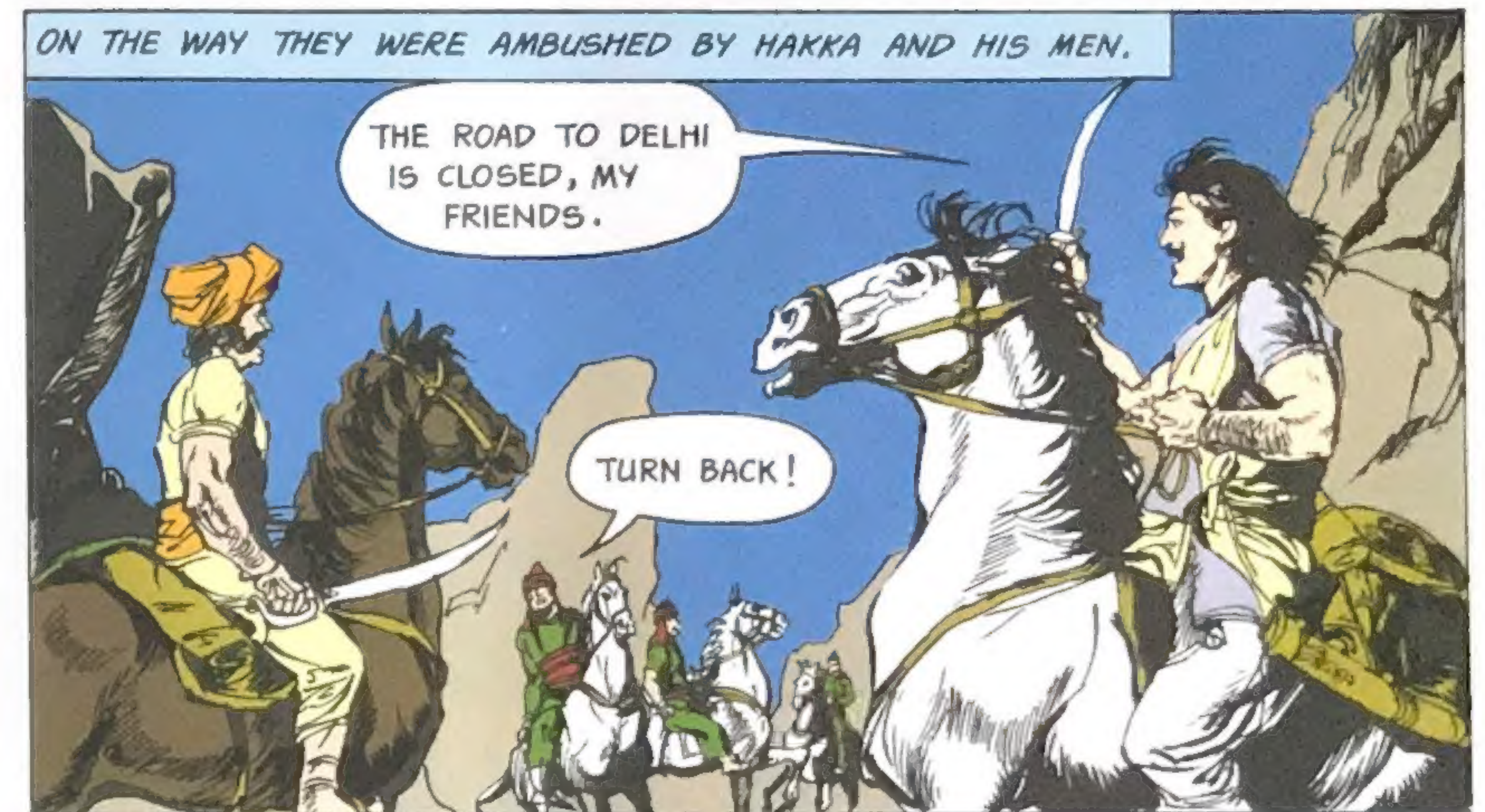
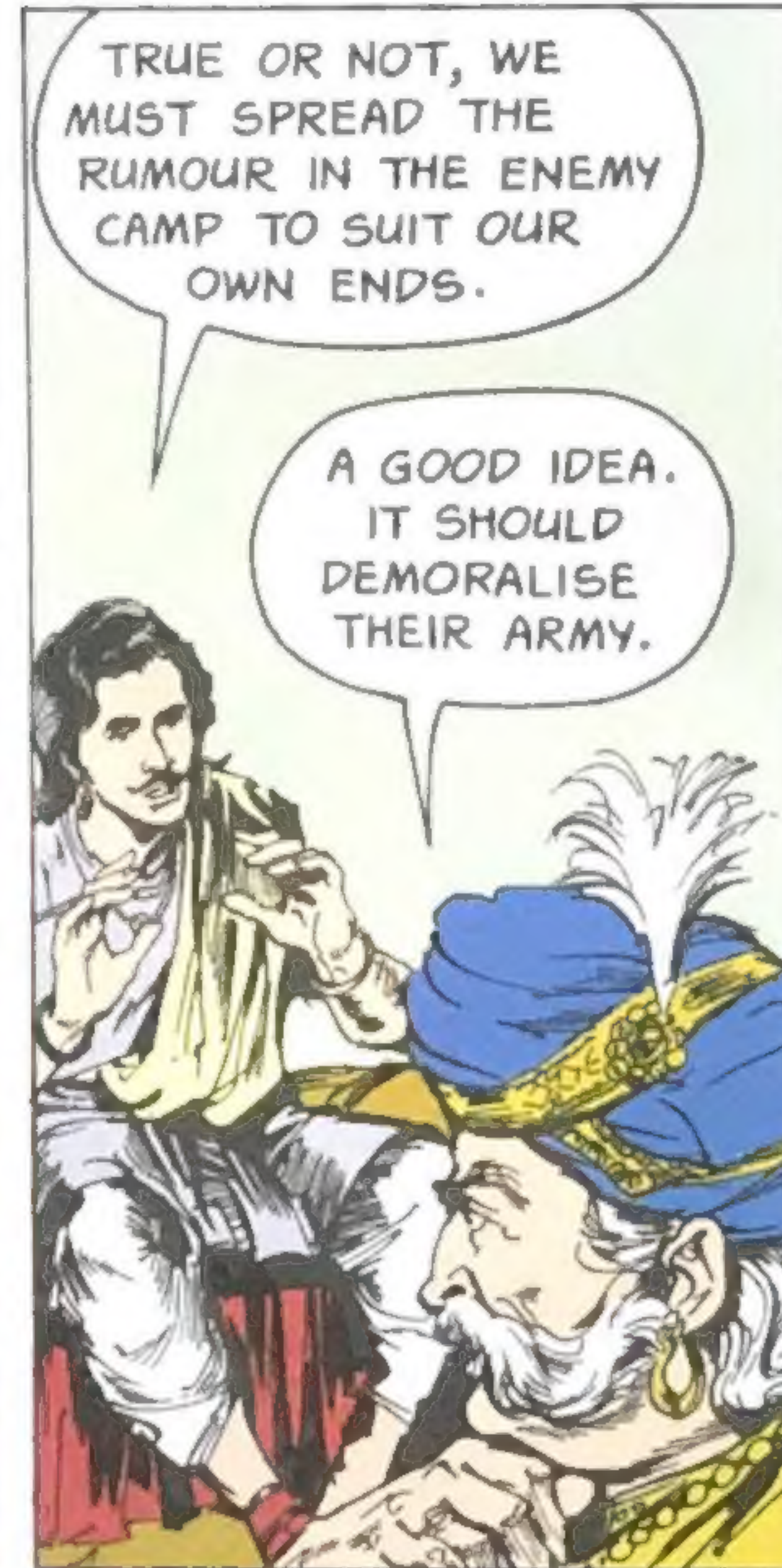
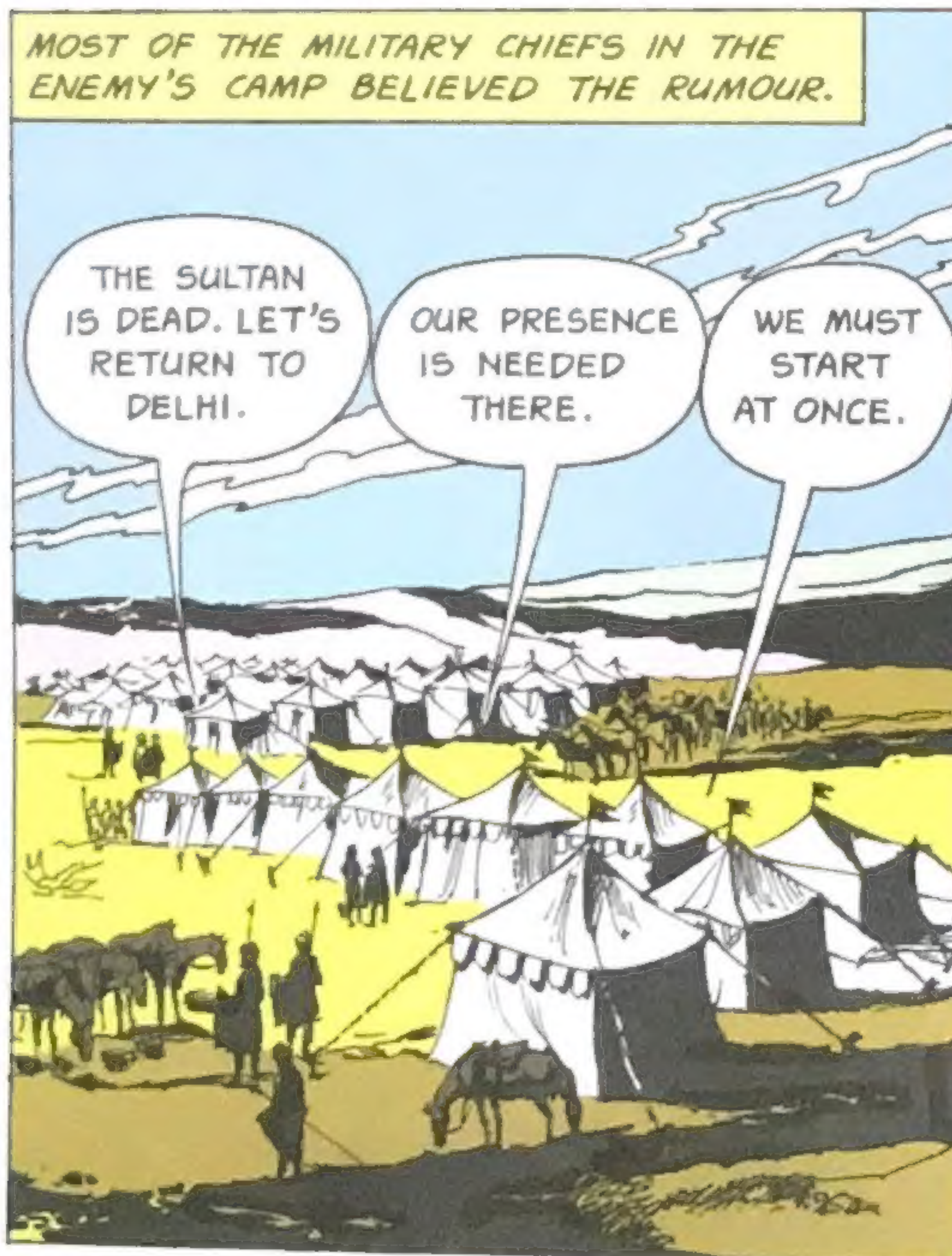
* NOW KNOWN AS HAMPI, IN MODERN KARNATAKA

ONCE AGAIN PRATAPA RUDRA REFUSED TO PAY TRIBUTE.



IN THE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED, HAKKA AND BUKKA FOUGHT VALIANTLY.





PRATAPA RUDRA WAS JUBILANT.

LET'S CELEBRATE
OUR GREAT
VICTORY.

NOT YET, YOUR
MAJESTY. DANGER
STILL LURKS.

TWO YEARS LATER—

COME ON HAKKA,
ENJOY YOURSELF.
WE HAVE DRIVEN
THEM AWAY ONCE
AND FOR ALL.

YES. BUT THOSE
WHO GUARD FREE-
DOM MUST ALWAYS
BE ON THE ALERT,
MY LORD.

YOUR MAJESTY, THE
SULTAN'S ARMY IS
AGAIN ON THE MARCH.
ANY TIME NOW WE
WILL BE ATTACKED.

SOUND THE
ALARM. WE'LL
FORESTALL THEM!

AS PRATAPA RUDRA SALLIED FORTH
MAJESTICALLY —

THIS WILL BE THE
DECISIVE BATTLE, MY
BRAVE LADS. ONWARD
TO FACE THE ENEMY
RANKS!

HAKKA WAS WORRIED.

THE KING HAS PENETRATED
TOO DEEP INTO THE ENEMY
LINES, BUKKA.

RUSH TO HIS
SIDE, HAKKA. I'LL
TAKE CARE OF
THIS END.

STRUCK BY AN ARROW, PRATAPA
RUDRA'S HORSE REELED.

THE KING!
KILL HIM.

THOUGH UNHORSED, THE
KING HELD THE ENEMY
SOLDIERS AT BAY.

COME ON,
GET ME IF
YOU CAN.

BUT THE KING WAS OUTNUMBERED. A VICIOUS BLOW FROM THE ENEMY SENT HIS SWORD FLYING.



DON'T HARM HIM! THE SULTAN WANTS HIM ALIVE.

THE SOLDIERS OF WARANGAL RAN HELTER-SKELTER.



THE KING HAS BEEN CAPTURED.

RUN!

HAKKA TRIED IN VAIN TO INSTIL COURAGE INTO THE HEARTS OF THE FLEEING SOLDIERS.



RALLY ROUND AND FIGHT.

WHAT FOR? THE KING HAS FALLEN!

LET'S SAVE OUR LIVES.

LATER, AS PRATAPA RUDRA WAS BEING TAKEN TO DELHI —



THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY BY WHICH I CAN SAVE MY HONOUR NOW SHOULD I...?

HAKKA AND BUKKA WHO HAD FOLLOWED UNNOTICED, SUDDENLY BROUGHT THEIR HORSES TO A HALT.



WHAT'S THAT COMMOTION? I HOPE THE KING IS...

LET'S RIDE DOWN TO THE VALLEY AND FIND OUT.

WHAT THEY FOUND OUT, MADE THEIR HEARTS SINK.



PRATAPA RUDRA HAS KILLED HIMSELF.

THE SULTAN WILL NOT PARDON OUR LEADERS FOR THIS.

ALAS, WE HAVE LOST OUR ONLY HOPE.

THE TWO BROTHERS WERE DEJECTED AS THEY RODE SOUTHWARDS.



BUKKA, ALL OUR EFFORTS HAVE BEEN IN VAIN.

NO, BROTHER. LET'S NOT DESPAIR. OUR MISSION STILL REMAINS TO BE FULFILLED.

AS THE TIGER SANK TO THE GROUND, THEY WERE JOINED BY A BAND OF STRANGERS.

YOUNG MAN, I SPOTTED THIS TIGER AND STALKED IT FROM ITS LAIR...



...BUT I FINISHED IT. WHO ARE YOU?

SUDDENLY —



HAKKA, WATCH OUT!

I AM KUMARA RAMA, PRINCE OF KAMPILI.

WE ARE HAKKA AND BUKKA.



KUMARA RAMA TOOK THEM TO HIS FATHER, KING KAMPILI DEVA.



YOU HAVE BROUGHT FAME TO KARNATAKA WITH YOUR BRAVERY IN THE BATTLE FOR WARANGAL.

BUT WE HAVE LOST OUR LEADER, PRATAPA RUDRA, YOUR MAJESTY.



LET THAT NOT WORRY YOU. THE PEOPLE OF KAMPILI STAND BY PRATAPA RUDRA'S IDEALS.

TREAT KAMPILI AS YOUR HOME AND CONTINUE WITH YOUR MISSION.

HAKKA AND BUKKA WERE GOOD HUNTSMEN. KUMARA RAMA OFTEN JOINED THEM WHEN THEY RODE OUT. ONE DAY —

I HAVE SOME NEWS FOR YOU. GHIYAS-UD-DIN IS DEAD. HIS SON, MUHAMMAD-BIN-TUGHLUQ IS NOW THE SULTAN.



OH! WE MUST BE ALERT. HE IS AN AMBITIOUS MAN.

A FEW DAYS LATER —



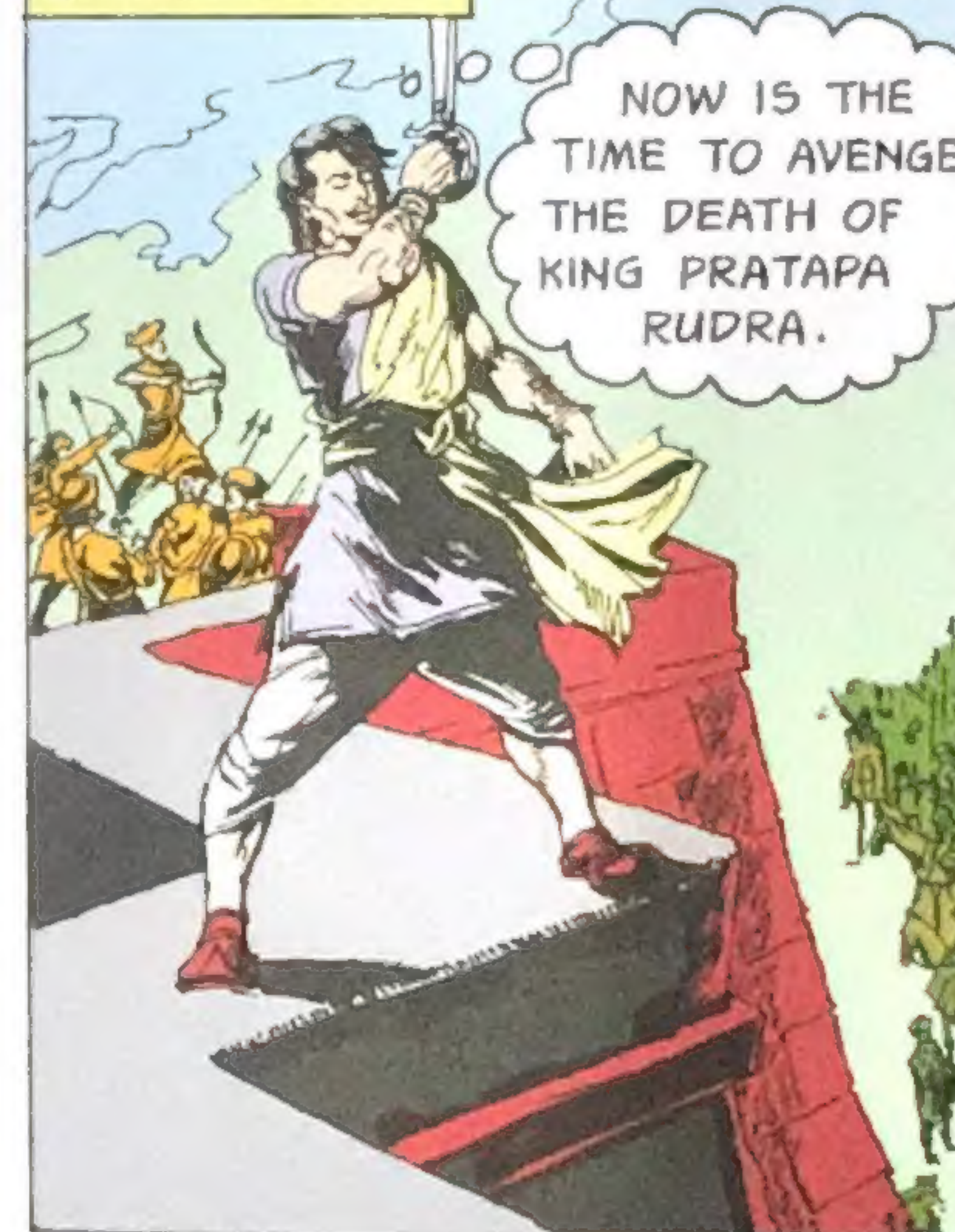
BUT IT WAS NOT TUGHLUQ'S ARMY. IT WAS BAHA-UD-DIN, TUGHLUQ'S NEPHEW, AND HIS RETINUE.

I HAVE INCURRED THE WRATH OF THE SULTAN. I'M FLEEING FROM HIM. HE'LL PUT ME TO DEATH IF I AM CAUGHT.

I'LL TAKE YOU TO OUR KING. HE IS MERCIFUL.



BEFORE LONG BAHA-UD-DIN WAS TRACKED DOWN TO KAMPILI BY TUGHLUQ'S MEN. THEY LAID SIEGE TO THE FORT.



BEFORE THE BATTLE BEGAN —



THE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED WAS FIERCE.



TUGHLUQ'S ARMY WAS REPELLED TWICE.



LOOK, HAKKA! NOT A SINGLE ENEMY SOLDIER IN SIGHT.

BUT THEY WILL RETURN, KUMARA.

KING KAMPILI DEVA HELD A COUNCIL OF WAR TO REVIEW THE SITUATION.



THE SIEGE WILL DEFINITELY BE RESUMED.



OUR TRIUMPH IS ONLY TEMPORARY, YOUR MAJESTY.



IF SO, WILL THE FORT WITHSTAND FURTHER ATTACK?

I AM NOT VERY HOPEFUL, FATHER.



WE SHOULD SHIFT THE CAPITAL TO ANEGUNDI* WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME.

A GOOD SUGGESTION. ANEGUNDI IS IMPREGNABLE.

* ON THE BANK OF THE RIVER TUNGABHADRA

THAT NIGHT, WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ENEMY, THE EXODUS FROM KAMPILI TO ANEGUNDI, TOOK PLACE.



WHEN THE COMMANDER OF TUGHLUQ'S ARMY LEARNT OF THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT—

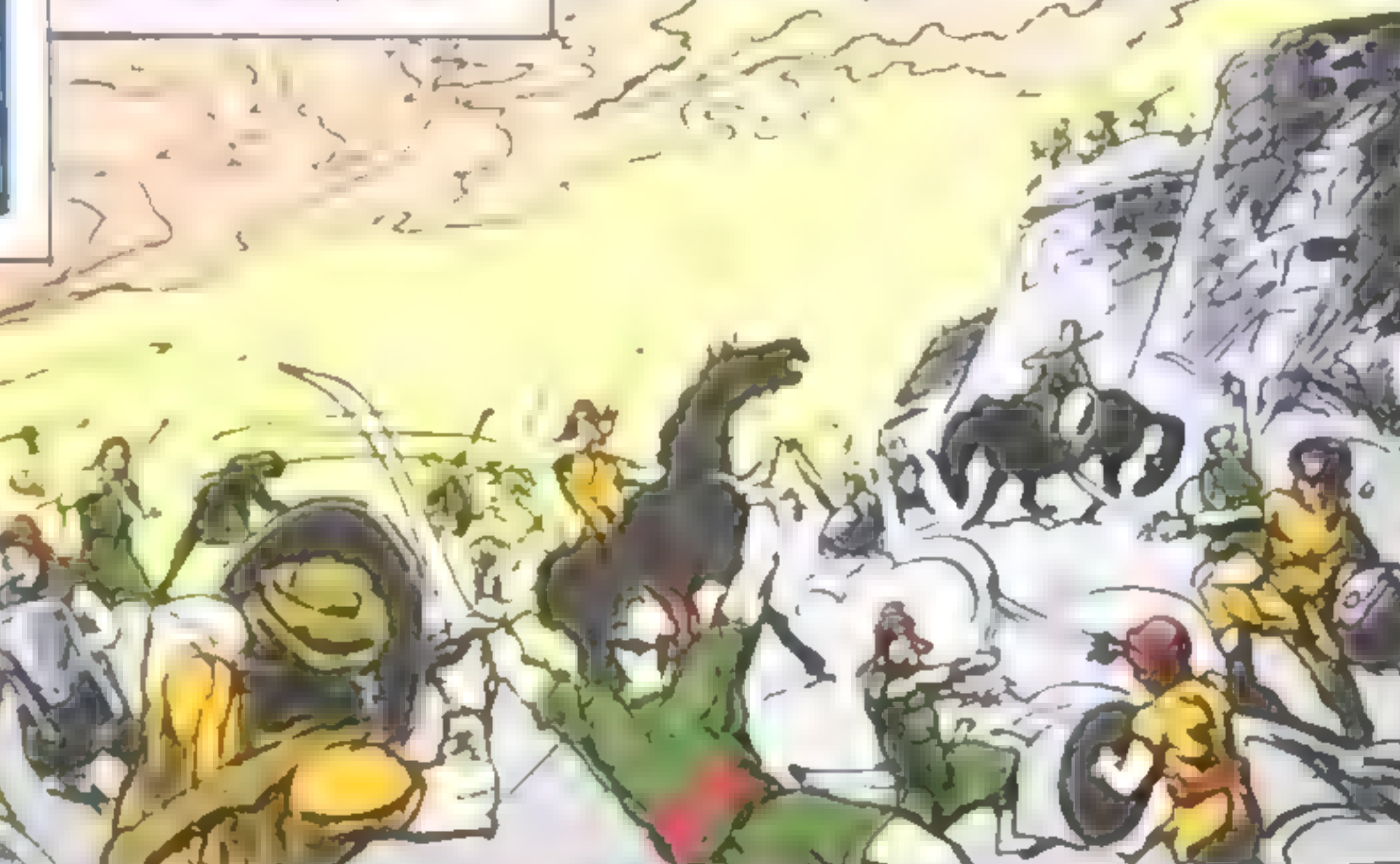
WE WILL NOT RETURN TO DELHI WITHOUT BAHU-UD-DIN. ON TO ANEGUNDI!

THE BATTLE FOR ANEGUNDI BEGAN.





THE NEXT DAY, BOTH THE SIDES LOST HEAVILY IN THE BATTLE.



THE GATE OF THE FORT WAS THROWN OPEN. THE KING AND THE PRINCE RODE OUT WITH HAKKA AND BUKKA.



IN THE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED, HAKKA AND BUKKA WERE WOUNDED AND FELL UNCONSCIOUS.



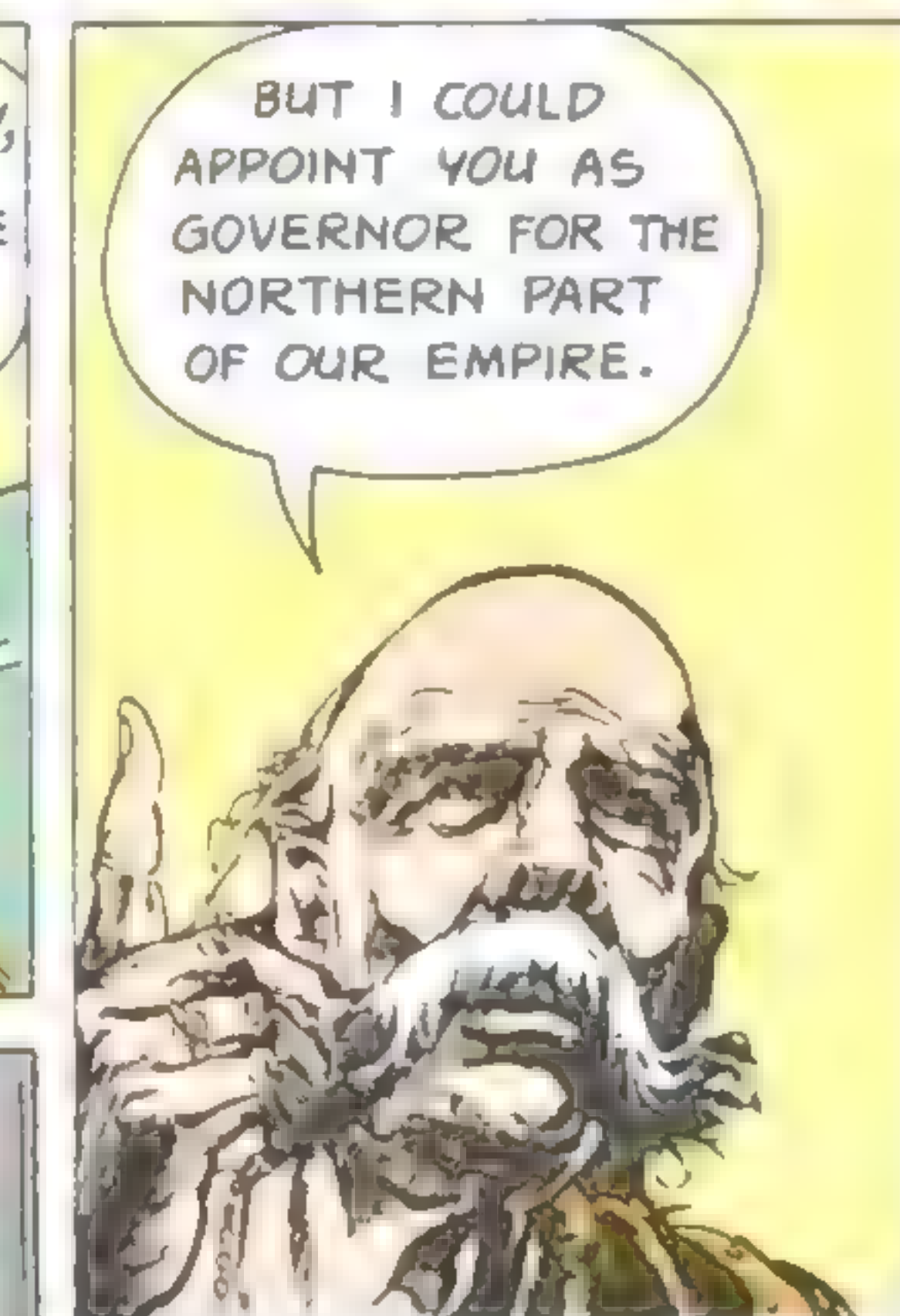
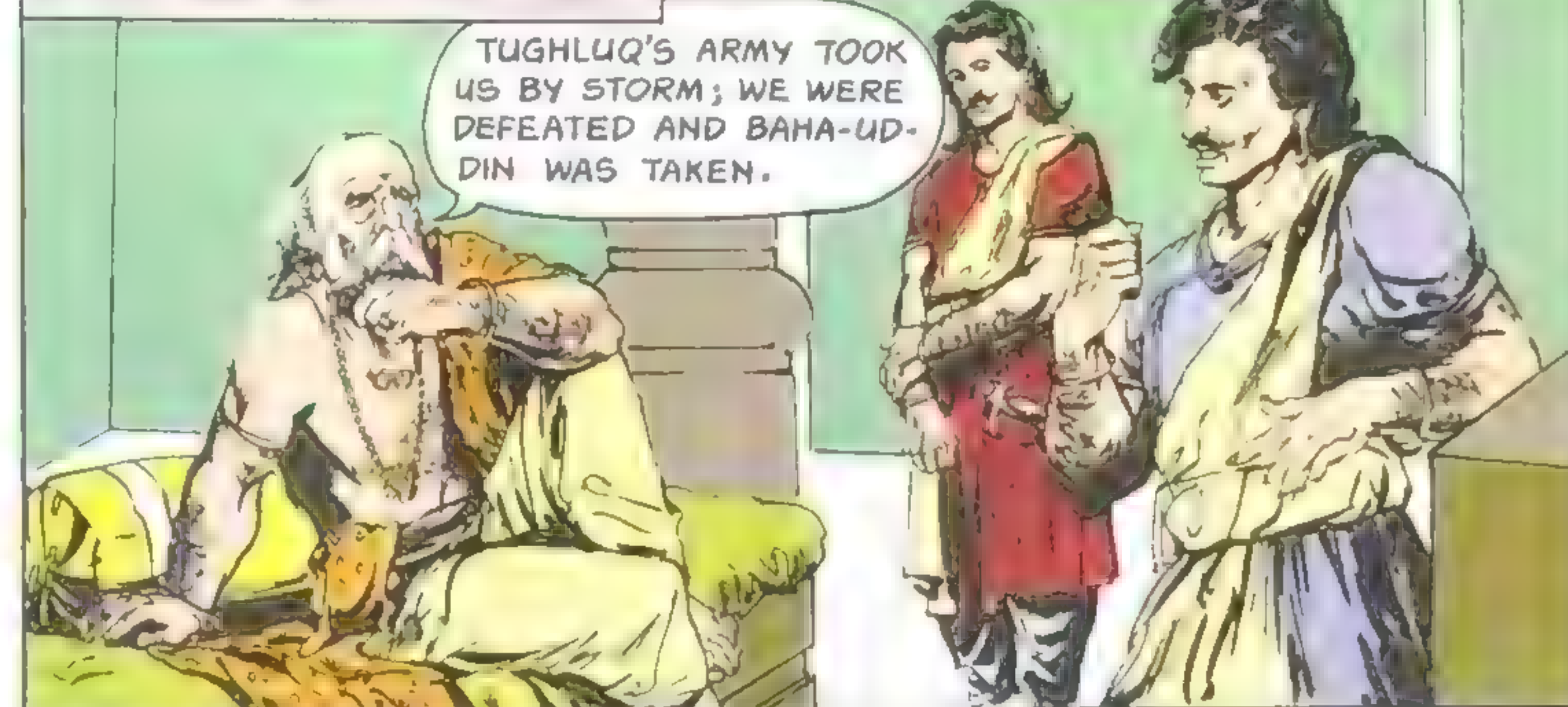
WHEN THEY REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS THEY FOUND THE BATTLEFIELD LITTERED WITH CORPSES.



THEY ATTENDED TO THE LAST RITES OF THE DEAD HEROES.



WHEN THEY CALLED ON THE HOYSALA KING, VEERA BALLALA, HE HAD BAD NEWS FOR THEM.





YOU WERE BEATEN AT WARANGAL. YOU WERE BEATEN AGAIN AT KAMPILI. YET YOU TALK OF VICTORY. WHAT KEEPS YOU GOING, HAKKA?

WHAT ELSE, EXCEPT LOVE FOR MY MOTHERLAND, YOUR MAJESTY?



AS HAKKA AND BUKKA LEFT FOR KAMPILI —

O GOD! HELP THEM IN THEIR MISSION.

WHEN THE TWO BROTHERS WERE ABOUT TO ENTER KAMPILI, A SHEPHERD STOPPED THEM.

MY LORDS, THE SULTAN'S GOVERNOR HAS ANNOUNCED A REWARD FOR YOUR HEADS. DON'T ENTER KAMPILI.

WE WILL HAVE TO LIE LOW FOR THE TIME BEING.



THUS HAKKA AND BUKKA DISGUISED THEMSELVES AS SHEPHERDS AND HID FROM THE GOVERNOR OF KAMPILI.



ONE DAY THE TWO BROTHERS TOOK THE SHEEP OUT TO GRAZE DEEP INTO THE FOREST.



LOOK, BROTHER! A HOLY MAN IN MEDITATION.

LET'S SEEK HIS BLESSINGS.

IT WAS SAGE VIDYARANYA. THE TWO PATIENTLY WAITED FOR HIM TO OPEN HIS EYES.



WHEN THE SAGE AT LAST DID SO, THE BROTHERS FELL AT HIS FEET.

BLESS US, HOLY ONE. WE ARE HAKKA AND BUKKA.

HAKKA AND BUKKA, THE DAUNTLESS BROTHERS? ARISE, BRAVE ONES.



REMEMBER, GOD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES.

HOLY ONE, WE ARE FINDING IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO RAISE AN ARMY WITHOUT ATTRACTING THE ATTENTION OF TUGHLIQU'S MEN.



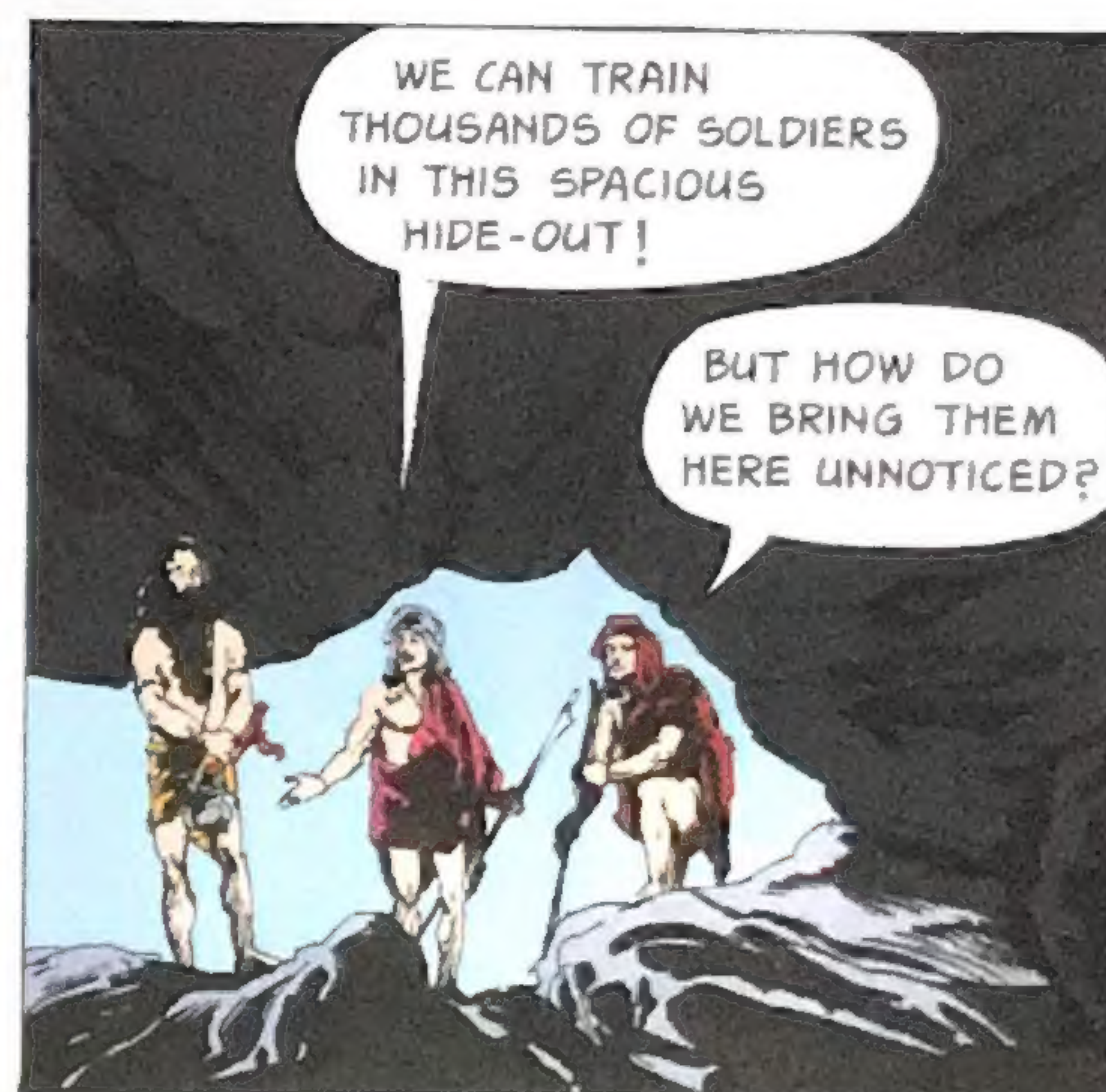
I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU. THE DESOLATE STATE OF MY NATIVE LAND MAKES ME VERY SAD. I NEED MEN OF VISION AND VALOUR.



I THINK I CAN HELP YOU THERE. COME WITH ME.



VIDYARANYA LED THEM STILL FARTHER WHERE THE CAVE BECAME INCREASINGLY NARROWER ...



WE CAN TRAIN THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS IN THIS SPACIOUS HIDE-OUT!

BUT HOW DO WE BRING THEM HERE UNNOTICED?

...AND THEY HAD TO CRAWL IN.

WHERE DOES THIS SECRET PASSAGE LEAD TO?



YOU WILL SOON SEE.

WE HAVE COME TO THE TEMPLE NEAR THE FORT!



THERE! ISN'T IT SIMPLE? OUR MEN WILL COME TO THE TEMPLE AS IF FOR RELIGIOUS PURPOSES AND ONCE THEY ASSEMBLE HERE, YOU COULD MAKE YOUR MOVE.



VIDYARANYA'S DISCOURSES STARTED ATTRACTING LARGE CROWDS.

AND THE LORD SAID:
ACTION, THEN, O ARJUNA,
IS THY DUTY; THE FRUIT
THEREOF IS NOT THY
CONCERN.



SOME OFFICIALS EYED THESE
GATHERINGS WITH GROWING
SUSPICION. BUT NOT MUHAMMAD
KHAN, THE GOVERNOR.

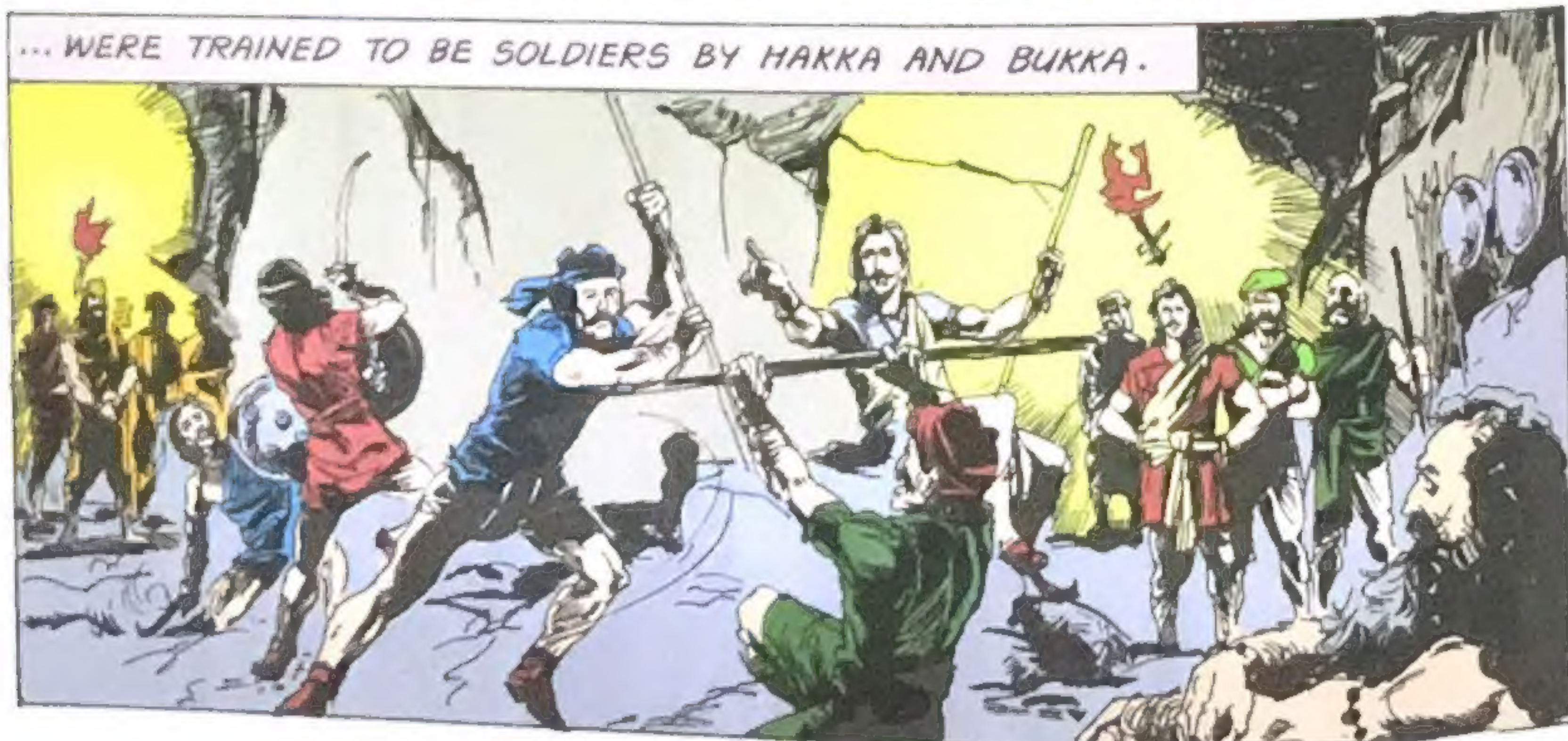
THAT IS A PIOUS
CROWD. LEAVE
IT ALONE.



AFTER THE DISCOURSE, THE APPARENTLY
HARMLESS AND PIOUS MEN...



... WERE TRAINED TO BE SOLDIERS BY HAKKA AND BUKKA.



ONE DAY —

WE SEEK YOUR
BLESSINGS,
HOLY SAGE.

MAY
VICTORY
BE YOURS.



UNDER COVER OF A DARK NIGHT,
HAKKA AND BUKKA RODE OUT
WITH THEIR MEN.



AT ANEGUNDI, LEAVING HIS MEN
OUTSIDE, HAKKA CLIMBED THE
WALL OF THE FORT.



ONCE INSIDE, HE FOUGHT HIS WAY TO
THE GATE...



...AND THREW IT OPEN. THE NEXT MOMENT, BUKKA JOINED HIM WITH HIS MEN.



IN THE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED, THE GOVERNOR FLED AND HIS MEN FOLLOWED HIM.



THE PEOPLE OF ANEGUNDI GAVE A ROUSING WELCOME TO HAKKA AND BUKKA.



IN THE HOUR OF TRIUMPH, VIDYARANYA HAD A WORD OF CAUTION.



ONE DAY HAKKA AND BUKKA CROSSED THE RIVER TUNGABHADRA WHILE OUT ON A HUNT WITH THEIR DOGS.



AS THEY REACHED THE OPPOSITE BANK THEIR DOGS GAVE CHASE TO A HARE WHICH BEGAN RUNNING FASTER AND FASTER.



THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN, IT CAME TO A HALT AND FACED THE DOGS.



WHEN THIS INCIDENT WAS REPORTED TO VIDYARANYA—



BUILD A FORT HERE AND FOUND A KINGDOM.



SOON A CITY CAME UP AT THAT EXACT SPOT.

YOU ARE THE SOURCE OF STRENGTH AND INSPIRATION TO US. WE WILL CALL THE NEW CITY VIDYANAGARA.

DON'T NAME IT AFTER A MERE MORTAL. THIS CITY WILL HERALD VICTORY FOR THE COUNTRY. IT IS A CITY OF VICTORY. CALL IT VIJAYANAGARA.



ASSUMING THE NAME HARIHARA RAYA, HAKKA BECAME THE FIRST KING OF VIJAYANAGARA. THE SMALL KINGDOM EVENTUALLY ROSE TO BE A MIGHTY EMPIRE THAT FLOURISHED FOR OVER THREE HUNDRED YEARS.

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